

REMARKS

Specification:

Applicants have amended the specification as suggested in the Office Action. Replacement pages have been submitted incorporating the changes.

Objection to the Specification under 35 U.S.C. 112:

First paragraph

Applicants have amended the independent claims in this Response. The §112 rejections have been addressed by the amendments, therefore, the rejections are believed to be overcome.

Second paragraph

Regarding the rejection to claims 1 and 39 on page 6 in the Action: the two claims have been amended to remove the objections.

Claim 4 has been deemed indefinite because of the terminology "blocking polynucleotide."
Claim 4 has been canceled to obviate the objection.

Claims 8, 9, 10, 26, and 29 are believed to be indefinite. These claims have been canceled except for claim 29. Claim 29 uses the term "tibialis anterior" which is the name of a muscle. Claim 29 has also been amended to depend from claim 6, therefore, claim 29 should no longer be considered indefinite.

Similarly, claims 13-15 and 21-23 have been canceled. However claim 25 has been amended to remove the rejection and depend from claim 6.

Claims 9, 14, 22, and 24 have been rejected for being indefinite. Claims 9, 14, and 22 have been canceled and claim 24 has been amended to remove the rejection.

The remaining §112 claim rejections have been obviated by either claim cancellation or amendment.

Applicants respectfully request that the §112 rejections be removed.

Rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. 102:

Claims 1, 3-5, 32-35, 38-41 have been rejected under §102(b) as being anticipated by Milas.

Applicants have either cancelled or amended the claims to obviate the rejection. Applicants' claims have been amended to claim delivery to skeletal muscle and pressure to limb epidermis. Milas does not disclose or teach inhibiting blood flow by applying pressure to limb epidermis.

Claims 1, 3-32, 37-41 have been rejected under §102(b) as being anticipated by Sferra.

Applicants have amended the claims as stated in the previous paragraph. Sferra does not disclose or teach Applicants noninvasive method of inhibiting blood flow or pressure application.

Claims 1-5, 8-10, 13-15, 32, and 38-41 have been rejected under §102(b) as being anticipated by Wolff.


Applicants have amended the claims as stated to remove the Wolff citation as prior art.

Claims 1-32, and 37-41 have been rejected under §102(b) as being anticipated by Nabel.

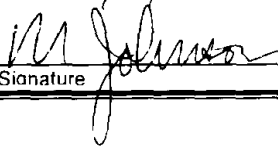
Applicants have amended the claims to remove the Nabel citation as prior art. Nabel does not disclose or teach the application of pressure to a mammal limb epidermis.

The Examiner's objections and rejections are now believed to be overcome by this response to the Office Action. In view of Applicants' amendment and arguments, it is submitted that claims 1-3, 5-7, 11-12, 16-20, 24-25, 27-31, 34-36 and 38-42 should be allowable and Applicants respectfully requests an early notice to such effect.

Respectfully submitted,


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as EXPRESS MAIL - POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on 8/7/02.


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